

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **\$1M Grant Will Assist Tulare County Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Impacted by the Freeze and Heat Wave Disasters**

**SACRAMENTO** – A \$995,000 Workforce Investment Act grant has been awarded to the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to assist 240 dislocated migrant and seasonal farmworkers facing layoffs due to freeze damage in the fields, as well as those affected by the record-setting heat wave of July 2006.

“This funding will provide vital job services and training for farmworkers whose employment was impacted by the extreme summer and winter weather that has caused severe damage to our state’s agricultural industry,” said Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency.

Some of the impacts from the record-setting weather conditions within just months of each other are still being assessed. Negative impacts on crops and related businesses often take months to fully unfold.

With these grant funds, the Tulare County WIB will provide outreach and a range of services to the local agricultural worker community suffering from the impacts. Services will include assessment, job search assistance, job placement, support services, case management, and training in English as a second language and vocational English as a second language. An estimated one half of the workers receiving services will also receive training services.

Funding for the program will be provided from the Workforce Investment Act funds drawn from the Governor’s 25 Percent Additional Assistance account. The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency’s Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for these funds.

For more information about these services, please contact Joseph Daniel with the Tulare County WIB at (559) 713-5200.

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